

Western Hemisphere Information Exchange (WHIX) Project



The Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Environment OASA (I&E) - with the support of the Florida International University (FIU) - is conducting a four-year project with the goal of developing a comprehensive Program that will promote the exchange of information between the U.S. Army and the military organizations of the Western Hemisphere.



The exchange of information will promote cooperation and knowledge sharing by addressing issues associated with the efficient management of military installations impacts on the environment, safety and occupational health, and the use of renewable energy and other clean energy resources.

Objectives

In order to develop the WHIX Program, the project will:

- Develop a framework to:
 - Identify, assess and prioritize infrastructure, environment, and energy requirements, issues and goals.
 - Identify information exchange opportunities.
 - Develop criteria to evaluate information exchange opportunities.
 - Evaluate information exchange opportunities.
- Apply framework to generate portfolios of information exchange opportunities.
- Coordinate and facilitate actions to:
 - Improve infrastructure management (e.g.: range/training support; morale, welfare and recreation).
 - Enhance sustainability and environmental stewardship (e.g.: pollution prevention; regulatory compliance).
 - Increase the efficient use of renewable and other clean energy resources (e.g.: biomass; fuel cells).

Initial Activities

- The Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Environment [ASA (I&E)], the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health (DASA- ESOH) and other military representatives attended a signing ceremony on June 2, 2003.
- The Program Kick-Off Meeting was held in the Pentagon with program officials on June 19, 2003.
- At the invitation of the Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) Environmental Programs Officer, attended the Civil-Security Forces Environmental Cooperation in Central America and the Caribbean Meeting held in Belize City, Belize (July 21-25-2003).
- The program briefing to the country officers at SOUTHCOM was held on August 26, 2003.
- The final draft of the Project Management Plan (PMP) was submitted to the Army Program Manager for review and comment on October 2, 2003.
- Review of final draft PMP by the core-working group: OASA (I&E), NORTHCOM, SOUTHCOM, FIU on October 7, 2003.
- Project Framework Workshop: OASA (I&E) and FIU on December 2-3, 2003.